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8  
9 **BEFORE THE**  
**BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING**  
10 **DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS**  
11 **STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

12 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. *2013-591*

13 **SUZANNE JOY HOPPING**  
10922 181st Lane  
14 Elk River, MN 55330

**A C C U S A T I O N**

15 **Registered Nurse License No. 600494**

16 Respondent.

17  
18 Complainant alleges:

19 **PARTIES**

20 1. Louise R. Bailey, M.Ed., RN (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in her  
21 official capacity as the Executive Officer of the Board of Registered Nursing, Department of  
22 Consumer Affairs.

23 2. On or about June 11, 2002, the Board of Registered Nursing issued Registered Nurse  
24 License Number 600494 to Suzanne Joy Hopping, also known as Suzanne J. Sederstrom  
25 (Respondent). The Registered Nurse License expired on January 31, 2006, and has not been  
26 renewed.

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## JURISDICTION

3. This Accusation is brought before the Board of Registered Nursing (Board), Department of Consumer Affairs, under the authority of the following laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code (Code) unless otherwise indicated.

4. Section 2750 of the Code provides, in pertinent part, that the Board may discipline any licensee, including a licensee holding a temporary or an inactive license, for any reason provided in Article 3 (commencing with section 2750) of the Nursing Practice Act.

5. Section 2764 of the Code provides, in pertinent part, that the expiration of a license shall not deprive the Board of jurisdiction to proceed with a disciplinary proceeding against the licensee or to render a decision imposing discipline on the license. Under section 2811, subdivision (b) of the Code, the Board may renew an expired license at any time within eight years after the expiration.

## STATUTORY PROVISIONS

6. Section 2761 of the Code states:

The board may take disciplinary action against a certified or licensed nurse or deny an application for a certificate or license for any of the following:

(a) Unprofessional conduct, which includes, but is not limited to, the following:

....

(4) Denial of licensure, revocation, suspension, restriction, or any other disciplinary action against a health care professional license or certificate by another state or territory of the United States, by any other government agency, or by another California health care professional licensing board. A certified copy of the decision or judgment shall be conclusive evidence of that action.

....

## COSTS

7. Section 125.3 of the Code provides, in pertinent part, that the Board may request the administrative law judge to direct a licentiate found to have committed a violation or violations of the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of the case, with failure of the licentiate to comply subjecting the license to not being

1 renewed or reinstated. If a case settles, recovery of investigation and enforcement costs may be  
2 included in a stipulated settlement.

3 **CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

4 **(Out of State Discipline Against Respondent's Nursing License)**

5 8. Respondent has subjected her license to disciplinary action under section 2761,  
6 subdivision (a)(4) of the Code in that her registered nurse license was disciplined by the  
7 Minnesota State Board of Nursing. The circumstances are as follows:

8 9. Respondent was licensed as a registered nurse by the Minnesota State Board  
9 (Minnesota Board) on August 3, 2000.

10 10. On September 27, 2010, Respondent appeared before the Minnesota Board's Review  
11 Panel to answer to allegations of misconduct contained in a Notice of Conference dated  
12 September 8, 2010. As a result of the conference, Respondent entered into a Stipulation and  
13 Consent Order which was based upon the following facts:

14 a. In January 2010, Respondent failed to follow the facility's procedure for  
15 securing a patient's physician transfer orders and medication administration record prior to  
16 transferring a patient, which caused potential risk to the patient.

17 b. In February 2010, while providing care to a patient in the intensive care unit,  
18 Respondent removed 80 tablets of methadone from the Pyxis even though the system prompted  
19 her to withdraw 20 tablets. Respondent documented that she crushed all 80 tablets and  
20 administered them to a critically ill patient through the patient's feeding tube. Respondent denied  
21 diverting methadone for her personal use. Respondent told the Minnesota Board that she was  
22 stressed and not feeling well due to withdrawing from her antidepressant medications; she had  
23 difficulty keeping track of all of the tablets she was crushing. Respondent's error resulted in her  
24 reported administration of 400 mg. of methadone to the patient instead of the prescribed 40 mg.

25 c. On February 17, 2010, Respondent resigned her employment in lieu of  
26 termination and was deemed ineligible for rehire.

27 d. On March 26, 2010, Respondent submitted to a pre-employment drug screen  
28 which tested positive for methadone. Respondent had no explanation for the positive screen.

1 e. On March 31, 2010, Respondent presented to the drug testing company a  
2 forged letter from a physician stating that Respondent had been prescribed methadone.  
3 Respondent told the Minnesota Board that she was directed by the drug testing company to forge  
4 the letter to explain the positive screen.

5 11. The Stipulation, which was adopted by the Minnesota Board on December 2, 2010,  
6 ordered that Respondent's registered nurse license be suspended indefinitely. Respondent was  
7 able to petition for reinstatement of her license in one year on the condition that she demonstrated  
8 that she was capable of practicing professional nursing in a fit and competent manner, and she  
9 had abstained from the use of all mood-altering substances not prescribed or authorized by a  
10 health care professional during the 12 months immediately preceding her petition, along with  
11 additional terms and conditions for reinstatement. Respondent's Minnesota RN license remains  
12 in a suspended status.

13 **PRAYER**


14 WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged,  
15 and that following the hearing, the Board of Registered Nursing issue a decision:

16 1. Revoking or suspending Registered Nurse License Number 600494, issued to  
17 Suzanne Joy Hopping, also known as Suzanne J. Sederstrom;

18 2. Ordering Suzanne Joy Hopping to pay the Board of Registered Nursing the  
19 reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case, pursuant to Business and  
20 Professions Code section 125.3;

21 3. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.  
22

23 DATED: January 29, 2013

24   
LOUISE R. BAILEY, M.ED., RN  
Executive Officer  
Board of Registered Nursing  
Department of Consumer Affairs  
State of California  
Complainant  
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